

## SPEAKER BIOS



**Taylor Batten,  
Editorial Pages Editor,  
The Charlotte Observer**

Taylor Batten is the editorial page editor at The Charlotte Observer, where he leads an award-winning team of writers, editors and cartoonists. His editorial cartoonist, Kevin Siers, won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize, and the Observer's editorial pages have been named the best in the state multiple times in North Carolina Press Association competitions. NCPA has also named Batten and other Observer editorial writers the top editorial writers in the state.

Batten joined The Observer in 1995 as a business reporter. He covered local and state government before holding a series of editing and management positions, and became editorial page editor in 2008. Batten has also written and reported for the Associated Press, the New York Times, the Boston Globe, the Dallas Morning News and The Miami News.

Batten, 44, earned a Bachelor's in Public Policy from Duke University and a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University.



**Mark Beattie,  
Principal,  
Hickey & Associates, LLC**

Mr. Beattie has had over thirty five years of experience in managing real estate, facilities, purchasing and staff management operations. He has extensive experience in long-range strategic planning for acquisition, usage and disposition of domestic and international real estate assets. He has worked for a number of industrial manufacturing companies including 30 years at 3M Company, a US based, multinational company with 750 locations worldwide and 60 million square feet of manufacturing, warehouse/distribution, R&D and office space.

Mr. Beattie has been an active member of CoreNet Global and the Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC). He has served on the Board of Directors for IDRC (now CoreNet), the Executive Board of the Metro East Development Partnership in St. Paul, MN, and the advisory board of the Minnesota Real Estate Journal. Past President Chair, Board of Directors for The Light Factory: Contemporary Museum of Photography and Film in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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**Charles Bowman,  
Market President,  
North Carolina and Charlotte,  
Bank of America**

Mr. Charles F. Bowman has been a Finance Business Executive of Bank of America Corporation since March 2008 and serves as its Market President of North Carolina & Charlotte. Mr. Bowman served as Non Voting Advisor of Conversus, GP - Investment Advisor of Conversus Capital, L.P. He served as Principal Compliance Executive of Bank of America Corporation until March, 2008.

He joined Bank of America in 1996, as an Associate General Counsel supporting business clients within ... Global Corporate & Investment Banking. Prior to Bank of America, he was a Partner in a law firm where his practice focused on corporate and financing transactions. He served as an Associate Director of the John Motley Morehead Foundation in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

He serves as a Board Member of Arts and Science Council. Mr. Bowman earned his Bachelor's degree in American Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was graduated in 1978 with Honors and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1982, he received both a Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina Law School and a master's degree in Public Policy Analysis from Duke University.



**Jim Boylan,  
VP of Human Resources,  
MetLife**

Jim is a Vice President in the Americas Business Partner organization within Human Resources supporting MetLife's US Retail Division. Jim has been with MetLife since 1980 starting his career in Human Resources - Compensation Planning. After receiving his law degree, he moved to the Law Department where he practiced labor and employment law for ten years.

He returned to Human Resources to serve in a number of roles of increased responsibility in providing Human Resources partnership across business lines. Jim was the Human Resources lead for Individual Business on the acquisition and integration of Travelers Life into MetLife in 2005.

Jim holds a JD from the Brooklyn Law School and a BBA in Labor Management Relations from Pace University. He is admitted to practice law in both New York and New Jersey.

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**Debra Campbell,  
Planning Director,  
City of Charlotte**

Debra Campbell is responsible for leading a joint City County Planning agency that provides planning services for the City of Charlotte and the unincorporated areas of Mecklenburg County.

The Planning Department's current 63-member staff is responsible for: the rezoning, historic district designation and subdivision processes, providing transit station, business corridor and neighborhood planning services, annexation and capital needs assessment processes, staff support for long range transportation planning (CRTPO), and zoning administration and interpretation.

Debra has over twenty nine years of experience in the field of Urban Planning, Transportation/Land Use Integration, Transit Station Area Planning & Development, Neighborhood and Business Corridor Revitalization, Housing and Community Development.

Before moving to Charlotte, Debra held several professional positions with various non-profit and public agencies. She is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University where she received a Masters in Public Administration in 1980 and a Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning in 1978.



**Ron Carlee,  
Charlotte City Manager**

Ron Carlee became the City of Charlotte's 11th City Manager in April 2013. Prior to joining the City, Carlee was chief operating officer/executive in residence of ICMA, the International City/County Management Association. Over the course of his career, Carlee has served more than 30 years in local government, holding a number of diverse, senior executive positions, including manager of Arlington County, Virginia, which is located directly across the Potomac River from Washington D.C.

As ICMA's chief operating officer, Carlee provided day-to-day oversight of ICMA's operations and led efforts to provide research and implementation tools to professional local government executives. He led a wide range of partnership relationships with foundations, federal agencies, universities and private businesses that support local government.

Carlee was widely recognized within the local government management profession for his leadership in Arlington's response to the 9-11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

Carlee is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, where he began his career in local government as assistant to the Mayor in 1975. He earned a doctorate in public administration from The George Mason University in 1995; a master's in urban studies from the University of Alabama in 1979; and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Montevallo, Alabama, in 1975. Carlee was inducted as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration in 2006.

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### **Daniel (Dan) Clodfelter, Mayor of Charlotte**

Mayor Daniel (Dan) Clodfelter was appointed Mayor of Charlotte on April 7, 2014. Prior to his appointment

as Mayor, he served as a member of the North Carolina State Senate from 1999 to 2014, representing portions of Mecklenburg County. From 1987-1993, he was District One representative on Charlotte City Council, and prior to elected office he served on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission as Chairman.

Born in Thomasville, N.C., Clodfelter graduated from Thomasville Senior High School, and went on to attend Davidson College, where he was Phi Beta Kappa, and a Rhodes Scholar. He graduated from Davidson in 1972, and received a second Bachelor's Degree from Oxford University in Oxford, England in 1974. Mayor Clodfelter earned his J. D. degree at Yale Law School in 1977.

He served as law clerk for Judge James B. McMillan, Jr. of the U. S. Western District Court of North Carolina from 1977 to 1978 after which he entered private practice with the firm of Moore and Van Allen in Charlotte. He has also served as a Trustee of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation since 1982. Clodfelter is married to Elizabeth K. Bevan and they have two adult children.



### **Jeff Edge, Sr. VP Economic Development, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce**

Jeff Edge heads up the economic development team at the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's economic development team has been a national leader in business attraction and expansion activities. In 2014, Southern Business & Development magazine recognized the Chamber's team for being the number one major market in the South over the past two decades and bestowed a "Sustainable Economic Development" award on the Chamber for its consistency in job creation over the past 20 years.

Prior to joining the Charlotte Chamber, Jeff served as Director of Economic Development for the four-county regional economic development program of the Columbia, SC Chamber of Commerce; Executive Vice President of the Cherokee County, SC Chamber of Commerce and Development Board; and Director of Research for the Spartanburg, SC Area Chamber of Commerce. He began his career in 1979 with a three-year stint as an economic development intern with the Greenville, SC Chamber of Commerce while a college student.

Jeff received a B.A. from Furman University in 1982. He is also a graduate of the Basic Economic Development Course at UNC Chapel Hill, the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and the Institute of Organization Management at the University of Georgia.

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**David Furman,  
Founder,  
Centro CityWorks**

David Furman is a Charlotte native, architect, and developer, who has

specialized in creating the urban experience through unique residential and mixed use developments. His Centro CityWorks, company has designed and developed 18 projects in downtown Charlotte and SouthEnd, including Charlotte's first downtown high-rise condo, Courtside, as well as the 28 story TradeMark building where he lives and works. He is currently on the board of Charlotte Center City Partners as well as an active participant in many initiatives to advance Charlotte's urban presence as a premier place to live, work, and play.



**Kevin Holland,  
Chief People Officer,  
Chiquita Brands International**

Kevin Holland is executive vice president and chief people officer for Chiquita Brands

International, Inc. Kevin joined Chiquita in 2005. In his role he is responsible for global human resources, information technology, corporate communications, security, and real estate.

Prior to Chiquita, Holland was chief people officer at Coors Brewing Co. In that role, he directed the people integration process for Coors' merger with Molson Brewing Co. and led human capital initiatives that resulted in the smooth consolidation of operations.

Prior to Coors, Holland was vice president of human resources at Kinko's, where he was responsible for all corporate and international HR functions, including expatriate programs for Kinko's in more than 200 locations in nine countries. He also has HR experience at Gateway, Inc., and Abbott Laboratories, Inc., as well as operations experience at Abbott Laboratories and Frito-Lay Co.

Holland earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Rhode Island and was a captain in the U.S. Army, where he served for five years, stationed in Germany and the United States.

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**Stephen L. Keckeis,  
Vice President and Charlotte  
Region Leader,  
Messer Construction**

Steve began his career with Messer in 1982, after graduating from the University of Cincinnati with a bachelor's degree in construction management. He also received an associate degree in civil engineering from UC in 1981. Steve has diverse project leadership experience, including work on airports, correctional facilities, medical facilities, recreational facilities, casinos, educational facilities, office buildings, government buildings, and parking garages. His project leadership experience with educational facilities is particularly extensive, having led and completed multiple projects, ranging from K-12 to university-level facilities. In 1995, UC recognized Steve's industry experience and expertise, naming him the recipient of its Distinguished Alumnus Award. Currently, Steve leads Messer's operations in the company's Charlotte region.

Steve is very active in the Charlotte community. He chairs the American Heart Association's Communities Teams Committee; serves as chair of the Facilities Committee board of RWCI; is an Executive Committee Member of the NCA&T Construction Management Board of Advisors; serves as a member of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce's Board of Advisors; is an active sponsor and mentor as well as Board of Advisors member for the Charlotte Minority Economic Development Initiative; volunteers for Second Harvest Food Bank; and serves on the board for Thompson Child and Family Focus.

Last fall, Steve sponsored a \$25,000 grant from Messer that was awarded to TCFF. The money was used to build a playground at TCFF's new Family Services Center in Grier Heights, a neighborhood in Charlotte that has struggled with violence.



**Bob Morgan,  
President, Charlotte Chamber  
of Commerce**

As president of the Charlotte Chamber, Bob Morgan oversees all aspects of the nonprofit's operations, including its finances, economic development and pro-business public policy efforts, member engagement programs, and sales and communications.

Morgan was named president of the Charlotte Chamber in 2005. Prior to his current role, he served as president and CEO of the Gaston Chamber from 2002-2005, and began his chamber career in 1991 as a Charlotte Chamber staff member. Morgan previously served as district director for Congressman Alex McMillan.

He is a graduate of the Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. He also earned his designation by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives as a Certified Chamber Executive. In November of 2013, he completed the Leadership Decision Making: Optimizing Organizational Performance program, an executive education course offered by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Morgan is a graduate of Independence High School in Charlotte, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## SPEAKER BIOS



**Kelli Price,  
Senior Vice President People,  
Premier Inc.**

Kelli Price is senior vice president of people for Premier, Inc., with

responsibility for human resources, organizational development, talent management and facilities.

In her previous role, Price was responsible for the Premier performance excellence journey, integrating the Malcolm Baldrige criteria into the fabric of the organization with an additional focus on aligning and developing organizational talent for the purpose of improving individual and organizational performance.

Before joining Premier, Price was a senior partner with a North Carolina-based management and organizational development consulting firm. As a partner, she used her combined talents to increase performance outcomes, improve processes and practices, facilitate change management, and lead organizational redesign efforts for her clients. Price brings a distinctive, holistic approach to performance excellence, organizational engagement and learning from her unique combination of experience in the field of performance improvement, human resources, education, organizational development and whole systems design.

Price has served as a North Carolina state quality examiner and on the national board of examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards Program. Price received a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and an MBA from Queens University.



**Mark Pringle,  
Vice President,  
Siemens Charlotte Energy  
Hub**

Mark Pringle is the Vice President for Siemens

Charlotte Energy Hub in North Carolina. In this capacity, Mark has complete business responsibility for Siemens' Electrical Generator Manufacturing and Service activities in Charlotte as well as for the feeder plant in Fort Payne, Alabama. Mark has 30 years' experience in the Power Generation industry starting as a Product Design Engineer with Westinghouse and working in positions of increasing responsibility within Westinghouse and Siemens.

Mark has been in Charlotte for more than nine years and was responsible for leading the site through a transition to peak performing status, which paved the way for the decision to make the Charlotte facility the global 60Hz manufacturing and service hub for Siemens Energy.

Mark is a founding board member of E4 Carolinas, a not-for-profit corporation that convenes industry, research and educational institutions, innovators, economic development organizations, and public leaders to coordinate the energy cluster in the Carolinas. He is also a member of the Foundation Board for Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) as well as an Advisory Board Member for the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) at the University Of North Carolina Charlotte (UNCC.) Mark Pringle holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

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**Mary Vickers-Koch,  
Dean, Harris Campus,  
Business & Industry Training  
Services, Central Piedmont  
Community College**

Mary Vickers-Koch is the Dean of the Harris Campus and Business & Industry Training Services at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina. She leads the continuing education programs that include leadership, management, professional development, computer, financial services, small business and entrepreneurship, economic development programs, and workforce development consulting solutions.

Prior to joining Central Piedmont Community College in 2000, Ms. Vickers-Koch worked for 21 years in the management consulting industry, partnering with executives on strategy development, leadership, service quality and team building.

Ms. Vickers-Koch is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and holds an MBA from the Babcock School, Wake Forest University.

A native Charlottean, she served in 2010-2011 as the President of Women Executives of Charlotte. She also serves on the board of the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture. She is a past president of Leadership Charlotte, and served on the Women Executives Community Service Board, an organization providing scholarships for non-traditional women students, for ten years (1996-2006), including four years as the President.